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EDUCATION (IRELAND),

1917.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION

IN

IRELAND.

FOR THE YEAR 1917.

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION IN IRELAND

FOR THE YEAR

1917.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY IVOR CHURCHILL, BARON WIMBORNE,

LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We the Commissioners of Education in Ireland beg to submit the following General Report of our proceedings during the year 1917.

Commissioners and Standing Committee.

Two changes have occurred in the constitution of the Commission owing to the resignation of Most Reverend Doctor Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, who represented the Cavan Roman Catholic Board of Education, and Right Hon. W. J. M. Starkie, LITT.D., Resident Commissioner of National Education, one of the Commissioners appointed by the Lord Lieutenant. Both had served for a lengthened period, having joined the Board on its re-constitution in 1891, both had been members of our Standing Committee, and we have placed on record our appreciation of their valuable assistance, and our regret at the loss of their services. Alfred J. Smith, Esquire, F.R.C.S.I., has been elected in the room of Most Reverend Doctor Walsh, and James MacMahon, Esquire, Secretary to the Post Office in Ireland, has been appointed in succession to Right Hon. Doctor Starkie. The names of the Commissioners and of the members of the Standing Committee are given on page 13. Five Board Meetings and thirteen Standing Committee Meetings were held during the year, the attendances at which are also given on page 13. In connection with the Standing Committee it should be noted that sixteen meetings were summoned, and that three meetings failed for want of a quorum. This we attribute in some measure to the less convenient situation of our present offices, as compared with those formerly occupied in the more central position of Grafton Street.

At the Board Meeting of January 24, 1917, we elected Right Reverend P. J. Byrne, P.P., V.G., to be our Chairman, and Sir James H. Stronge, Bart., D.L., to be our Vice-Chairman for the year.

Accounts

On pp. 6-9 we give Summaries of our Accounts which have been certified as correct by the Auditor of the Local Government Board.

Income and Expenditure.

Our total income, including the balance brought forward from the previous year, was £7,717 13*s.* 8*d.*, and our expenditure £5,789 3*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a balance of £1,928 9*s.* 11*d.* available for the current year. As compared with the previous year, income proper shows an increase of £65 3*s.* 0*d.*, and expenditure a decrease of £829 6*s.* 7*d.* The increase is the result of a larger refund in respect of Income Tax,

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and the decrease is explained by the fact that towards the close of 1916 payments on account amounting to £400, were made for educational purposes, which in the ordinary course should have been included in the following year's disbursements.

Annuitants. The cost of retired masters' annuities, which in 1916 was reduced from £346 6*s.* 10*d.* to £255 13*s.* 4*d.*, shows a still further reduction in 1917 to £205 13*s.* 4*d.*

The following Tables give a summary of income and expenditure :—

Income.

Account.	Income—1917. Rents.	Dividends.	Miscellaneous	Net Credit Balances, January 1, 1917.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ulster Royal School Endowments.	2,029 4 11	2,180 17 8	128 4 5	982 15 10	5,321 2 10
Ulster Royal School "Building Funds," etc.	—	134 18 5	11 1 3	56 8 0	202 7 8
Other Endowments ...	210 15 0	1,411 18 1	115 0 8	456 9 5	2,194 3 2
Total ...	2,239 19 11	3,727 14 2	254 6 4	1,495 13 3	7,717 13 8

Expenditure.

Account.	Expenditure—1917. Rents, Rates, and other outgoings.	Payment of Retired Masters' Annuities.	Distribution for Educational Purposes.	Net Credit Balances, December 31, 1917.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ulster Royal School Endowments.	481 7 2	205 13 4	3,267 0 0	1,367 2 4	5,321 2 10
Ulster Royal School "Building Funds," etc.	—	—	122 8 10	79 18 10	202 7 8
Other Endowments	279 12 7	—	1,433 1 10	481 8 9	2,194 3 2
Total ...	760 19 9	205 13 4	4,822 10 8	1,928 9 11	7,717 13 8

Capital.—Our capital account has undergone some changes during the year :—(*a*) by the conversion of £4,534 1*s.* 4*d.* War Loan 4½ per cent. Stock into £4,772 13*s.* 5*d.* War Loan 5 per cent. Stock ; (*b*) by the purchase of £127 6*s.* 7*d.* of the latter Stock ; and (*c*) by the release by the Irish Land Commission of a sum of £244 Mature Guaranteed Land Stock, previously held as Guarantee Deposits. This has been transferred to the Commissioners' account in the Bank of Ireland, bringing the total of such Stock to £39,572 18*s.* 4*d.*

ULSTER ROYAL SCHOOL ENDOWMENTS.

General.—We believe, that on the whole, the Schools sharing in these endowments continue to be efficiently conducted. The number of "Selected" Schools is now eleven—the same as last year—but it should be noted that the girls' department, opened at Enniskillen, in September. 1916, by the Fermanagh Protestant Board, is practically in the position of an additional school save that it is under the same management and control as Enniskillen Royal School (Portora). The returns dealing with the Schools, their rolls, educational results, and the condition of the school premises are, speaking generally, of a satisfactory character. One

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School, however, failed to qualify under the Scheme, the number of passes at the Intermediate Examinations not being up to the required standard. For particulars on these points we would refer to the report of our Secretary, who, as Lord Lieutenant's Inspector, visited the various Schools in September, 1917. This report will be found on pp. 10-12.

For a new venture, the girls' department at Enniskillen has done well. After one year's existence it had a roll of 46, and out of 14 available candidates 11 were presented for examination, of whom 6 passed.

Numbers.—The total number of pupils on the rolls for the year 1916-17 was 759, as compared with 714 in the previous year. The latter number showed a gain of 28 on the returns for 1914-15, and these again were better by 39 than those of 1913-14. In other words, during the three years 1914-17 the number of children attending the selected "Schools" shows the substantial increase of 112.

The number of pupils presented for the Intermediate Examinations in 1917 was 410 out of a possible 454, or 90·3 per cent. of the Intermediate Roll. This is slightly better than the 90 per cent. of the previous year, and constitutes a record in the history of the "Selected" Schools.

Efficiency.—Tested by the Intermediate Examinations, the efficiency of the Schools, taken as a whole, is creditable. Out of 410 presented for examination 291 were successful, that is, the percentage of Passes is 70·9, as against a general percentage for the whole country of 60·1. In 1916 the percentage of Passes was 60 for our special Schools and 57·6 for Irish Intermediate Schools generally. The higher percentage of passes from the selected schools thus shown is all the more meritorious in view of the fact that a higher percentage of the total number of pupils on the Intermediate Roll was presented for examination than in previous years.

School Premises.—The condition of the various School buildings may be described as satisfactory. A considerable amount has been expended on the Ulster Royal School buildings which is due to their being a long time in existence and requiring a large outlay for maintenance. The Schools under the Roman Catholic Boards, on the other hand, are of comparatively recent date, and their up-keep necessitates but slight outlay.

Qualified Schools.—We are satisfied that ten of the eleven schools selected by the Local Boards of Education qualified under the Scheme, and we accepted as evidence of this qualification the certificate of the Lord Lieutenant's Inspector given on p. 12. In the case of the eleventh School, believing that it gave promise of qualifying during the coming year, we exercised the discretion vested in us, and dispensed with the condition which it failed to fulfil during the year 1916-17.

Local Boards.—In accordance with Section 48 of the Scheme we received reports from the various Local Boards of Education as to their proceedings during the School year 1916-17. These reports are generally of a satisfactory character, but we note (1) that the attendance of some of the lay members at Board meetings leaves much to be desired, and (2) that there was considerable delay in having some of the accounts audited.

Other Endowments.

Preston Endowment.—The gross income of this endowment was £983 3*s.* 4*d.* as compared with £903 17*s.* 4*d.* for the previous year, the causes of the increase being extra dividends as the result of investment in War Loan Stock and a larger collection of interest in lieu of rent. After payment of the necessary outgoings, the following allocations were made to the Governing Bodies of the three Schools named:—King's Hospital, Oxmantown, £184 18*s.* 4*d.*; Preston School, Navan, £399 8*s.* 9*d.*; and Preston School, Abbeyleix, £295 17*s.* 6*d.*

Preston School, Navan:—The School roll shows a substantial increase, 32 taking the place of 15. The average attendance was 30, and of 4 presented for the Intermediate Examinations 2 passed. The Lord Lieutenant's Inspector

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reports :—"The Preston School, Navan, continues to carry on good educational work. The pupils are systematically and carefully taught. Upon my visits to the School I have found them diligently and studiously engaged in their work."

Preston School, Abbeyleix.—The returns show a roll of 15—the same as last year—of whom 4 were boarders. Of 4 pupils in the junior grade class, 3 were presented for examination and 2 passed. The report of the Lord Lieutenant's Inspector on the general condition of the School is satisfactory, but the paucity of pupils is still a weak point. Owing to stress of war conditions the financial position is not improving as rapidly as had been anticipated. For the want of candidates this is the third successive year in which the Scholarship attached to this School has not been awarded. The money is accumulating in our hands for investment as opportunity arises.

Carysfort Endowment.—The Schools sharing in this endowment are Sheeana, Ballinatone, Aughrim, Ballycreen, and Mucklagh National Schools, the two first named being under Protestant, and the remaining three under Roman Catholic management. A sum of £127 was divided equally between the two denominations. The reports of the National Board Inspectors may be described as good with regard to four of the schools, and as fair with regard to the fifth. No change has taken place in the unsuitability of the Mucklagh premises.

The Leamy Endowment, Limerick.—During the year we distributed between the Leamy Local Boards of Education a sum of £139 1*s.* 9*d.* On the day of inspection the roll of the High School under Protestant management, was 16, and that of the National School, under Roman Catholic management, was 490. The High School has suffered through the absence of the Headmistress on war work, and the roll has been reduced by 10. Subject to this limitation, the Lord Lieutenant's Inspector reports that both Schools continue to be conducted satisfactorily.

The Viscount Limerick Endowment, Dundalk.—Two Schools established their claim to share in this Endowment, namely :—St. Mary's College, Dundalk, for 20 pupils, and the Educational Institution, Dundalk, for 22 pupils. We divided the sum of £53 0*s.* 6*d.* between them in proportion to these numbers.

Banks Endowment. Eyrecourt.—The Trustees mentioned in the Scheme again submitted a plan for the application of the endowment during the year 1917, and in accordance therewith a sum of £16 4*s.* 2*d.* was devoted to the teaching of Shirt-making, Knitting, &c., and to providing prizes for attendance, diligence, and improvement in the several standards, in a School at Eyrecourt under the management of Very Rev. Dean Aldridge. The report on the work done is satisfactory.

The Diocesan Schools and Banagher Royal School Endowments.—In accordance with the plan adopted some years ago we paid the following sums for the benefit of pupils attending Intermediate Schools in the districts named :—£12 Dioceses of Leighlin and Ossory ; £26 Dioceses of Meath and Ardagh ; £28, Dioceses of Tuam, Killala and Achonry ; and £40, King's County. We also distributed a sum of £107 as grants towards the better equipment of eight Secondary Schools in the King's County.

Lattone School, Anne Hall Endowment.—The portion of the income of this endowment applicable to Lattone School continues to be paid to the Manager, by whom in accordance with our instructions, it is to be devoted to the reduction of the debt incurred in enlargement and repairs. The portion of the premises used as a National School is in good condition, but the teacher's residence and the school used for technical instruction need attention. Any further expenditure, however, must be postponed in view of the debt above referred to. Owing to the illness of the Lord Lieutenant's Inspector, his report has not yet been received.

Limerick Diocesan School Endowment.—No expenditure was incurred during the year, and on December 31, 1917, the property in our possession in addition to the School buildings, consisted of £138 5*s.* 2*d.* War Loan 5 per cent. Stock, £84 12*s.* 6*d.* War Loan 3½ per cent. Stock, £310 12*s* 6*d* Railway Stock, and £13 2*s.* 2*d.* cash, the income for the year being £41 1*s.* 2*d.*

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ESTATE MANAGEMENT.

On pp. 8-9 we give Summaries of our Rentals for the year 1915-16, together with our Agents' Accounts for the corresponding period.

Rentals.—As compared with last year, the gross rental on the present occasion shows an increase of £4 14*s.* 6*d.*, the figures being £1,849 16*s.* 11*d.* now, as against £1,845 2*s.* 5*d.* in 1916. Carysfort remains unchanged. Tyrone Rental Proper is increased by £4 10*s.* 0*d.* owing to new Spent Bog lettings, and the Tyrone Bog Rental is increased by 4*s.* 6*d.*

Arrears.—The general condition of the arrears compares favourably with that of last year, the total outstanding having decreased from £1,502 16*s.* 11*d.* to £1,435 7*s.* 4*d.* Taking the estates separately, Carysfort shows no arrears, a full year's rent *plus* previously existing arrears, which amounted to £29 7*s.* 11*d.*, having been collected during the year. On the Tyrone estate the reduction in arrears amounts to £38 1*s.* 8*d.*, that is £26 12*s.* 3*d.* on the Rental Proper and £11 9*s.* 5*d.* on the Bog Rental. We have to point out, however, that in 11 cases on the Rental Proper (the rents of which amount to £37 3*s.* 0*d.*) absolutely no rent was collected, and on the Bog Rental, out of 290 lettings, no rent was collected in 48 cases. This failure is altogether opposed to instructions repeatedly issued to the Agent, who, being asked for an explanation, replied to the following effect:—That with regard to the 11 cases on the Rental Proper, 5 (whose rents amount to £14 11*s.* 9*d.*) had paid since the returns were furnished, 2 had promised payment at an early date, and that proceedings would be taken to enforce payment in the remaining cases; that with regard to the Bog Rental, promises of payment had been made, that some payments had since been received, and that he expected further receipts in a short time.

We feel bound to state that in our opinion the returns dealing with the Bog Rental and the above explanation regarding these returns are unsatisfactory. We hope for better results on the collection for the present year.

All which we have the honour to submit to Your Excellency as our Report in the premises.

Sealed with our Common Seal at a Meeting held this 11th day of April, 1918, and forwarded for submission to Your Excellency on the same date.

Present when the Seal was affixed:—

J. DENHAM OSBORNE, *Chairman.*

ROBERT BROWNE.
PATRICK M'KENNA,
ARTHUR WEBB,
LOUIS C. PURSER,
J. C. MACGINLEY,
} *Commissioners.*

STANISLAUS MURPHY, *Secretary.* [SEAL.]

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APPENDIX A.—

RECEIPTS AND

1 (a).—THE ULSTER ROYAL

DR. CHARGE.

Name of Endowment	Credit Balances, Dec. 31, 1916.	RECEIPTS. Rents	Dividends.	Other Payments.	Total Receipts.	Debit Balances, Dec. 31, 1917.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Armagh Royal School	465 14 9½	231 0 0	777 10 0	9 2 4	1,017 12 4	—	1,483 7 1½
Cavan Royal School	123 16 2½	—	282 6 2	33 7 7	315 13 9	—	439 9 11½
Raphoe Royal School	110 17 4	69 0 0	153 15 11	16 6 0	239 1 11	—	349 19 3
Enniskillen Royal School ...	123 6 7½	78 0 0	963 10 11	50 14 11	1,092 5 10	—	1,215 12 5½
Dungannon Royal School ...	159 0 10½	1,651 4 11	3 14 8	18 13 7	1,673 13 2	—	1,832 14 0½
Total	982 15 10	2,029 4 11	2,180 17 8	128 4 5	4,338 7 0	—	5,321 2 10

1 (b.)—THE ULSTER LOCAL

DR. CHARGE.

Name of Local Board	Credit Balances, Dec. 31, 1916.	RECEIPTS. Distributive Share of Endowment.	Dividends, &c., on Building Funds, &c.	Other Receipts.	Total Receipts.	Debit Balances, Dec. 31, 1917.	Total
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Armagh Protestant	—	405 0 0	—	—	405 0 0	115 10 0	520 10 0
Armagh Roman Catholic ...	—	405 0 0	—	—	405 0 0	—	405 0 0
Cavan Protestant	—	120 10 0	—	—	120 10 0	—	120 10 0
Cavan Roman Catholic ...	29 9 10	120 10 0	88 11 1	6 3 1	215 4 2	—	244 14 0
Donegal Protestant	—	100 0 0	—	11 8 10	111 8 10	25 1 2	136 10 0
Donegal Roman Catholic ...	—	100 0 0	—	—	100 0 0	—	100 0 0
Fermanagh Protestant ...	—	303 10 0	—	0 1 0	303 11 0	18 4 0	321 15 0
Fermanagh Roman Catholic ...	26 18 2	303 10 0	46 7 4	4 17 2	354 14 6	—	381 12 8
Tyrone Protestant	—	704 10 0	—	—	704 10 0	—	704 10 0
Tyrone Roman Catholic ...	—	704 10 0	—	—	704 10 0	—	704 10 0
Total, ...	56 8 0	3,267 0 0	134 18 5	22 10 1	3,424 8 6	158 15 2	3,639 11 8

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APPENDIX A.—ACCOUNTS FOR 1917.—*continued.*

ACCOUNTS.

EXPENDITURE, 1917.

SCHOOL ENDOWMENTS.

DISCHARGE. CR.

Debit Balances, Dec 31, 1916	EXPENDITURE. On Estate Management, &c. Rents, Taxes, &c.	Agency Charges, and other Payments.	Retired Masters' Annuities.	Amount Distributed between Local Boards.	Total Expenditure.	Credit Balances, Dec 31, 1917.	Total.	Name of Endowment.
£ s d	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
—	69 1 1	41 19 9	95 0 0	810 0 0	1,016 0 10	467 6 3½	1,483 7 1½	Armagh Royal School.
—	—	5 3 2	66 13 4	241 0 0	312 16 6	126 13 5½	439 9 11½	Cavan Royal School.
—	21 10 8	13 3 0	—	200 0 0	234 13 8	115 5 7	349 19 3	Raphoe Royal School
—	22 15 8	29 4 11	22 0 0	607 0 0	681 0 7	534 11 10½	1,215 12 5½	Enniskillen Royal School
—	70 4 1	208 4 10	22 0 0	1,409 0 6	1 709 8 11	123 5 1½	1,832 14 0½	Dungannon Royal School.
—	183 11 6	297 15 8	205 13 4	3,267 0 0	3,954 0 6	1,367 2 4	5,321 2 10	Total.

BOARDS OF EDUCATION.

DISCHARGE. CR.

Debit Balances, Dec. 31, 1916.	CREDITS. Rent, &c., due by Local Boards.	Income of Building Funds, &c., paid.	Net Amount of Share of Endowment.	Total Credits.	Credit Balances, December 31, 1917.	Total	Name of Local Board
£ s. d	£ s d.	£ s d.	£ s d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
115 10 0	231 0 0	—	174 0 0	405 0 0	—	520 10 0	Armagh Protestant.
—	—	—	405 0 0	405 0 0	—	405 0 0	Armagh Roman Catho.
—	—	—	120 10 0	120 10 0	—	120 10 0	Cavan Protestant.
—	—	72 6 0	120 10 0	192 16 0	51 18 0	244 14 0	Cavan Roman Catholic.
25 1 2	63 0 0	—	48 8 10	111 8 10	—	136 10 0	Donegal Protestant
—	—	—	100 0 0	100 0 0	—	100 0 0	Donegal Roman Catholic
17 15 0	28 5 0	0 1 0	275 14 0	304 0 0	—	321 15 0	Fermanagh Protestant.
—	—	50 1 10	303 10 0	353 11 10	28 0 10	381 12 8	Fermanagh Roman Catholic.
—	—	—	704 10 0	704 10 0	—	704 10 0	Tyrone Protestant.
—	—	—	704 10 0	704 10 0	—	704 10 0	Tyrone Roman Catholic.
158 6 2	322 5 0	122 8 10	2,956 12 10	3,401 6 8	79 18 10	3,639 11 8	Total.

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THE COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

APPENDIX A.—

RECEIPTS AND

2.—OTHER ROYAL SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE ENDOWMENTS

DR. CHARGE.

Name of Endowment.	Credit Balances, Dec. 31, 1916.	RECEIPTS. Rents.	Dividends.	Other Receipts.	Total Receipts.	Debit Balances, Dec. 31, 1917.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Banagher Royal School ...	49 0 10½	—	114 9 1	19 19 2	134 8 3	—	183 9 1
Carysfort Royal School ...	65 15 10	130 14 4	33 1 6	6 12 10	170 8 8	—	236 4 5
Athlone Private School... ...	1 16 11	—	5 11 5	0 7 5	5 18 11	—	7 15 10
Banks Endowment, Eyrecourt ...	7 5 11	4 12 4	18 18 2	1 13 8	25 4 2	—	32 10 1
Leamy Endowment, Limerick ...	50 9 0	—	174 9 8	32 10 1	206 19 9	—	257 8 9
Leamy Protestant Board of Education.	12 15 11	—	20 1 11	3 13 5	23 15 4	—	35 12 3
Preston Endowment (General) ...	—	9 5 4	725 4 11	5 11 9	741 2 0	—	741 2 0
Preston School, Navan ...	46 12 5½	—	132 9 0	10 12 7	143 1 7	—	189 14 0½
Preston, Queen's County, Endowment.	9 13 4	—	83 19 4	15 0 5	98 19 9	—	108 13 1
Preston Scholarship	50 12 2	—	18 16 6	3 10 0	22 6 6	—	72 18 8
Viscount Limerick Endowment, Dundalk.	53 4 6	46 3 0	5 1 6	1 5 9	52 10 3	—	105 14 9
Meath and Ardagh Diocesan School Fund.	18 10 4	—	23 14 6	4 11 4	28 5 10	—	46 15 2
Leighlin and Ossory Diocesan School Fund.	7 12 8	—	10 14 0	2 0 7	12 14 7	—	20 7 3
Limerick Diocesan School Fund ...	61 7 0	20 0 0	18 3 10	2 12 4	41 1 2	—	102 8 2
Tuam, &c., Diocesan School Fund...	21 11 6	—	25 17 8	4 19 4	30 17 0	—	52 8 5
Totals, ...	456 9 5	210 15 0	1,411 18 1	115 0 8	1,737 13 9	—	2,194 3 2

3.—SUMMARY RENTAL FOR YEAR TO SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER, 1916.

Rentals, 1916.

Name of Estate.	Arrears, 1915.	Rent, 1916.	Total.	Collected, 1916.	Arrears, 1916.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tyrone	1,347 9 11	1,592 18 2	2,940 8 1	1,619 10 5	1,320 17 8
Tyrone Bog	125 19 1	132 4 5	258 3 7	143 13 11	114 9 8
Carysfort	29 7 11	124 14 3	154 2 2	154 2 2	—
Totals, ...	1,502 16 11	1,849 16 11	3,352 13 10	1,917 6 6	1,435 7 4

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APPENDIX A.—ACCOUNTS FOR 1917—*continued.*

ACCOUNTS.

EXPENDITURE—(continued).

AND THE DIOCESAN SCHOOL FUNDS.

DISCHARGE. CR.

Debit Balances, Dec. 31, 1916	EXPENDITURE. On Estate, &c. Rents, &c.	On Estate, &c. Other Expenditure.	Educational	Total Expenditure.	Credit Balances, Dec. 31, 1917.	Total.	Name of Endowment.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
—	2 1 1	5 3 6	147 0 0	154 4 9	29 4 4½	163 9 1½	Banagher Royal School.
—	4 9 5	35 7 7	127 0 0	166 17 0	69 7 6	236 4 6	Carysfort Royal School.
—	—	—	4 10 10	4 10 10	3 5 0	7 15 10	Athlone Private School.
—	4 18 1	0 0 10	16 4 2	21 3 1	11 7 0	32 10 1	Banks Endowment, Eyrecourt
—	40 0 0	0 9 1	117 13 10	158 2 11	99 5 10	257 8 9	Leamy Endowment, Limerick.
—	—	1 10 0	21 7 11	22 17 11	13 14 4	36 12 3	Leamy Protestant Board of Education.
—	59 3 7	2 6 1	679 12 4	741 2 0	—	741 2 0	Preston Endowment (General).
—	—	—	110 17 3	110 17 3	78 16 9½	189 14 0½	Preston School, Navan.
—	—	2 18 0	89 15 0	92 13 0	16 0 1	108 13 1	Preston, Queen's County, Endowment.
—	—	*31 14 2	—	31 14 2	41 4 6	72 18 8	Preston Scholarship.
—	—	0 2 1	53 0 6	53 2 7	52 12 2	105 14 9	Viscount Limerick Endowment, Dundalk
—	—	0 1 3	26 0 0	26 1 3	20 14 11	46 16 2	Meath and Ardagh Diocesan School Fund.
—	—	0 0 5	12 0 0	12 0 5	6 6 10	20 7 3	Leighlin and Ossory Diocesan School Fund.
—	—	†69 6 0	—	69 6 0	13 2 2	102 8 2	Limerick Diocesan School Fund.
—	—	0 1 3	28 0 0	28 1 3	24 7 3	52 6 0	Tuam, &c., Diocesan School Fund
—	110 12 2	169 0 5	1,433 1 10	1,712 14 5	461 8 9	2,194 3 2	Totals

* Including £31 13s. 4d. invested. † Invested.

4.—SUMMARY OF AGENTS' ACCOUNTS, MAY, 1916, TO MAY, 1917.

Name of Estate	Balance, 1916.	Receipts, 1916-17.	Total.	Outgoings, 1916-17.	Lodged, 1916-17.	Balance, 1917.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tyrone ...	139 3 9	1,763 4 4	1,902 8 1	348 19 4	1,450 0 0	103 8 9
Carysfort ...	Nil	160 2 2	160 2 2	51 1 4	109 0 10	Nil
Total, ...	139 3 9	1,923 6 6	2,062 10 3	400 0 6	1,559 0 10	103 8 9

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THE COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

APPENDIX B.

INSPECTION, 1916-1917.

REPORT

With regard to the INSPECTION for the YEAR 1916–1917 of the SCHOOLS selected by the Local Boards of Education to share in the

ULSTER ROYAL SCHOOL ENDOWMENTS.

As Inspector appointed by His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant for the school year 1916–1917, I made my Inspection of these Schools in September, 1917. The number of such schools on the present occasion is eleven—the same as last year—although the Fermanagh Protestant Board have opened a department for girls which, except that it is under the same management and control as Portora, might be regarded as a separate school

The subjoined Table shows the accommodation of the eleven Schools and the numbers on their Rolls respectively :—

NAME OF SCHOOL.	* No. of Pupils which the School can accommodate.			No. of Pupils on Roll, 1916-17.				
				Boarders.		Day Pupils		Total
	Boarders	Day Pupils.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Male	Female	
1. Royal School, Armagh	100	100	200	42	–	27	–	69
2. St. Patrick's College, Armagh ...	60	16	76	31	–	7	–	38
3. Royal School, Cavan	40	40	80	11	–	30	12	53
4. St. Patrick's College, Cavan	90	50	140	78	–	28	–	106
5. Royal School, Raphoe	40	100	140	15	–	9	7	31
6. St. Eunan's Seminary, Letterkenny ...	80	20	100	62	–	15	–	77
7. Royal School, Enniskillen (Portora) ...	100	50	150	58	–	17	–	75
7. Royal School, Enniskillen (Girls) ...	7	48	55	–	5	–	41	46
8. St. Macarten's Seminary, Monaghan ...	100	20	120	46	–	1	–	47
9. St. Michael's College, Enniskillen ...	–	50	50	–	–	34	–	34
10. Royal School, Dungannon	60	140	200	41	16	34	33	124
11. St. Patrick's Academy, Dungannon ...	–	130	130	–	–	25	34	59
Totals	677	764	1,441	384	21	227	127	759

The success of the Schools, as measured by the results obtained in the recent Intermediate Examinations, is set forth in the following Table :—

NAME OF SCHOOL	No. of Pupils on Intermediate School Roll.	Number presented for Intermediate Examinations.		Number who passed		Percentage of Passes to Intermediate School Roll	Percentage of Passes to number presented for examination
		Male.	Female	Male	Female.		
1. Royal School, Armagh	44	39	–	30	–	68·1	76·9
2 St. Patrick's College, Armagh ...	20	20	–	17	–	85·	85·
3 Royal School, Cavan	23	15	8	7	·1	34·7	34·7
4. St. Patrick's College, Cavan	70	55	–	46	–	65·7	83·6
5. Royal School, Raphoe	16	9	4	4	–	25·	30·7
6. St. Eunan's Seminary, Letterkenny ...	71	68	–	54	–	76·	79·4
7. Royal School, Enniskillen (Portora) ...	27	22	–	14	–	51·8	63·6
7. Royal School, Enniskillen (Girls) ...	14	–	11	–	6	42·8	54·5
8 St. Macarten's Seminary, Monaghan ...	42	42	–	30	–	71·4	71·4
9. St. Michael's College, Enniskillen ...	26	26	–	18	–	69·2	69·2
10. Royal School, Dungannon	54	30	16	23	11	62·9	73·9
11. St. Patrick's Academy, Dungannon ...	47	17	28	12	18	63·8	66·6
General Result	454	343	67	255	36	64·	70·9

* Those numbers are, of course, only approximate.

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School Rolls.—The total number of pupils on the rolls for the year just closed is 759, as compared with 714 in the previous year. This represents a gain of 45 and indicates that a substantially larger number of pupils is sharing in the advantages of the endowments, which is, of course, all to the good. The increase is all the more satisfactory in view of the fact that 1915–16 showed a gain of 28, and 1914–15 a gain of 39. In other words during the three years 1914–17 the rolls have risen from 647 to 759, which means an increase of more than 17 per cent. The larger numbers on the present occasion are altogether due to the establishment of the new Girl's Department in connection with Enniskillen Royal School. It has a roll of 46, and the other schools taken together show a reduction of 1 compared with the previous year. Net gain, 45. During 1916–17 boarders have increased by 12 and day pupils by 33; while if we distinguish between the sexes, boys are more numerous by 6, and girls by 39.

The most important variations in individual school rolls are increases in Royal School, Dungannon (10), and Royal School, Enniskillen, boys (9); and decreases in St. Macarten's Seminary, Monaghan (21), and St. Patrick's Academy, Dungannon (11).

The number on the Intermediate Rolls, that is those available for the Intermediate Examinations, was 454 as against 455 last year when the total of the rolls was 45 less. This means that in some of the schools, at least, pupils are entering at an earlier age, which is much to be desired. Of the 454 possible candidates, 410 were presented for examination, that is 90·3 per cent. which is the highest in my experience as Inspector of these schools. Four of the schools presented absolutely every pupil on their respective Intermediate Rolls, but in other schools the number submitted to examination was not so exhaustive. It is but fair to add, however, that there has been a marked improvement in this respect during recent years.

Educational Efficiency.—Tested by the results of the recent Intermediate Examinations, the schools, taken as a whole, have done well. The successful candidates number 291 out of 410 presented for examination, that is the percentage of passes is 70·9. This compares very favourably with the percentage of 60 last year, and all the more so, seeing that, as stated above, a larger proportion of possible candidates was submitted to the test. The general results for the country as a whole are also higher this year, and are represented by a percentage of 60·1 as compared with 57·6 in 1916. It will be noted that the improvement in the general results is not so marked as that obtaining in the eleven schools under review. Accordingly, the special schools with which we are dealing not only continue to maintain a higher percentage of passes, but on the present occasion their superiority in this respect is represented by a percentage of 10·8 as compared with one of 2·4 last year. Taking the sexes separately in our particular schools, the boys have done much better than the girls—the percentage of passes being 74·3 and 53·7 respectively—while in the general results for the whole of Ireland, the superiority of the boys is measured by a small percentage of 3·2. Indeed, in two of our schools the failure of the girls is rather remarkable—in one case out of 8 presented only 1 passed, and in the other, out of 4 presented, none passed.

The fine percentages scored by the following schools is worthy of mention:—St. Patrick's, Armagh, 85 per cent.; St. Patrick's, Cavan, 83 per cent.; St. Eunan's, Letterkenny, 79 per cent; and Royal School, Armagh, 76 per cent. In the case of the first-named the curriculum was a narrow one, but in all the others the subjects taken were many, and the individual failures few. The Royal Schools of Cavan and Raphoe show poor results, mainly through the failure of their girls entrants.

A close analysis of the results obtained by the various schools indicates that English and Mathematics—fatal last year—have recovered their position, and that languages were responsible for the majority of the failures in the Junior Grade. My own experience goes to show:—(1) That almost general dissatisfaction was expressed with the character of the Arithmetic Paper set in the Junior Grade; (2) That the important subject of Parsing seems now to receive little attention in the Preparatory Schools. I was told that "who" was a preposition, and "quickly" was stated to be almost anything but an adverb! (3) That in only one school was the result of the written test in Experimental Science unsatisfactory; (4) That a tendency is apparent in some of the schools to relegate French to a subordinate position—but little time being given to the teaching of the subject, and few pupils being presented for examination in it.

Buildings, Equipment, etc.—The buildings may now be described as being in good condition, and the same may be said of the equipment, it we except some desks and blackboards previously referred to. The new department for girls connected with Enniskillen Royal School is very well housed, good rooms, and suitable equipment, but a poor play ground.

In connection with the premises the following points were noted:—

St. Patrick's College, Armagh.—Damp spot in large dormitory.

Royal School, Cavan.—Flushing of outdoor W.C. is defective.

Royal School, Raphoe.—Flooring of dining-room needs attention.

Royal School, Enniskillen.—There are signs of dampness in the study-hall, the passage leading thereto, and the staircase of sanatorium.

St. Michael's College, Enniskillen.—The playground presents a very unkept appearance.

Royal School, Dungannon.—The entrance hall requires doing up, its present condition being not at all in keeping with the rest of the premises.

St. Patrick's Academy, Dungannon.—The outdoor sanitary arrangements are not well kept.

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Health, etc.—In the early Spring one of the schools suffered greatly from a visitation of Influenza, which was followed by an outbreak of Chicken Pox. With this exception the schools had a clean bill of health, during the year. In some of the schools sufficient attention scarcely seems to be paid to ventilation—notably in the study-halls and dormitories. The important subject of drill receives the attention it deserves in six schools, in two it is temporarily suspended owing to the difficulty of securing instructors under existing conditions, in two others it finds no place on the time table, and in the eleventh provision is about being made for its introduction. My ambition is to be able to report that all the Schools give adequate time to this essential item.

Free Places.—All the schools provided free education for at least two pupils, although in one case it does not appear that that fact was advertised as required by section 59 of the scheme. In some cases the proportion of candidates to places was four to one, while in others there was no competition, the number of candidates being only equal to the number of places offered. The scoring was higher than usual and in one case reached 76 per cent.

Local Boards.—The various Boards have discharged efficiently their duties under the Scheme. It is noted, however, (1) that the attendance of lay men at meetings of two of the Boards leaves much to be desired; and (2) that the accounts for any one year should be submitted for audit EARLY in the succeeding year, and the accounts for the current year should be written up to date.

Obituary.—It is with the deepest regret I have to report the death, under most tragic circumstances, of Mr. R. Burgess, Headmaster of Enniskillen Royal School. Mr. Burgess's reign was all too brief. He became Headmaster in the Summer Term of 1915, and in his short period of office his splendid energy gave ample promise that Portora would soon regain its leading place among Irish Boarding Schools.

Schedule I., Qualified Schools.—I am satisfied that ten of the eleven schools selected by the Local Boards have fulfilled all the necessary conditions, and I beg to report the compliance of each of the schools (subject to the exception mentioned hereunder) with the requirements of the Scheme, in respect of the school year ended August 1, 1917.

The exception is Raphoe Royal School which scored only four passes at the recent Intermediate Examinations; the minimum number required by the Scheme being five. French, and History and Geography, showed weakness, but there was no wholesale break-down in any one subject, and I attribute the present failure to the rather low standard of intelligence prevailing in the school. Having gone carefully through the various classes, I have formed the opinion that at least seven pupils are likely to pass next year, and under the circumstances I would respectfully suggest that the Commissioners should exercise the discretion vested in them under the Scheme and dispense with the condition which Raphoe Royal School has failed to fulfil during the past year.

The matters which call for attention, and to which I have alluded above, will be made the subject of fuller reference in my detailed report to His Excellency, the Lord Lieutenant.

STANISLAUS MURPHY,

Inspector.

October 5, 1917.

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APPENDIX C.

COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

I.

CONSTITUTION AND ATTENDANCES, 1917.

Commissioner.	Date of Meeting.					
	Jan. 24.	April 18.	July 18.	Oct. 11.	Nov. 21. Special	Total
Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne	–	1	–	1	1	3
Rev. J. W. R. Campbell, M.A.	1	1	–	–	–	2
Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly, Bishop of Canea	–	–	–	–	1	1
W. A. Goligher, Esq., LITT.D., F.T.C.D., M.A. ...	–	–	–	1	–	1
*James MacMahon, Esq.	–	–	–	–	–	0
Right Hon. Lord Justice Molony	–	–	–	1	–	1
Rev. J. L. Morrow, M.A.	–	–	1	–	–	1
W. J. O'Reilly, Esq., D.L., R.M.	1	1	–	1	1	4
Rev. J. Denham Osborne, M.A., D.D.	1	1	1	–	1	4
Louis Claude Purser, Esq., LITT.D., S.F.T.C.D. ...	1	1	1	1	–	4
†Right Hon. W. J. M. Starkie, M.A., LITT.D.... ...	–	–	–	–	–	0
Right Rev. Monsignor Byrne, P.P., V.G., Chairman ...	1	1	1	1	1	5
Very Rev. Canon Coyne, P.P.	–	1	1	1	1	4
His Honor Judge Walker Craig, M.A., K.C.	–	–	–	–	1	1
Very Rev Canon McGinley, D.D.	1	–	1	1	1	4
Most Rev. Dr. McKenna, Bishop of Clogher ...	1	1	–	1	1	4
Rev. W. R. W. Roberts, B.D., S.F.T.C.D.	–	–	–	–	–	0
§Doctor Alfred Smith	–	1	1	–	1	3
Sir James H. Stronge, Bart., D.L., Vice-Chairman ...	–	1	1	–	1	3
His Honor Judge Andrew Todd, LL.D., K.C. ...	–	–	–	–	–	0
Rev. Canon Webb, M.A.	1	1	1	–	–	3

II.

STANDING COMMITTEE, 1917.

Meetings summoned—16. Meetings held—13.

	Attendances.		Attendances.
Monsignor Byrne	3	Dr. Osborne ...	13
Sir James Stronge	1	Dr. Purser ...	12
Judge Craig	0	Mr. Roberts ...	0
Dr. Donnelly	1	Dr. Starkie ...	0
Canon McGinley	9	Judge Todd ...	5
Mr. O'Reilly	2		

* Appointed December 11, 1917. † Resigned October 8, 1917. § Elected January 22, 1917.

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No. 10567.

DUBLIN CASTLE,
13th April, 1918.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, forwarding, for submission to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, the Annual Report of the Commissioners of Education in Ireland for the year 1917.

I am,
SIR,
Your obedient Servant,
E. O'FARRELL.

The Secretary
to the Commissioners of Education in Ireland,
14 and 15 Castle Street,
Dublin.

(11557). 10784. 3, 20. 30, 6. 6, 800. 3. 18. A. T. & Co., Ltd.

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